

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice or disclaimer claims 1-67 and 78-100 and please amend claims 68 and 101-103.

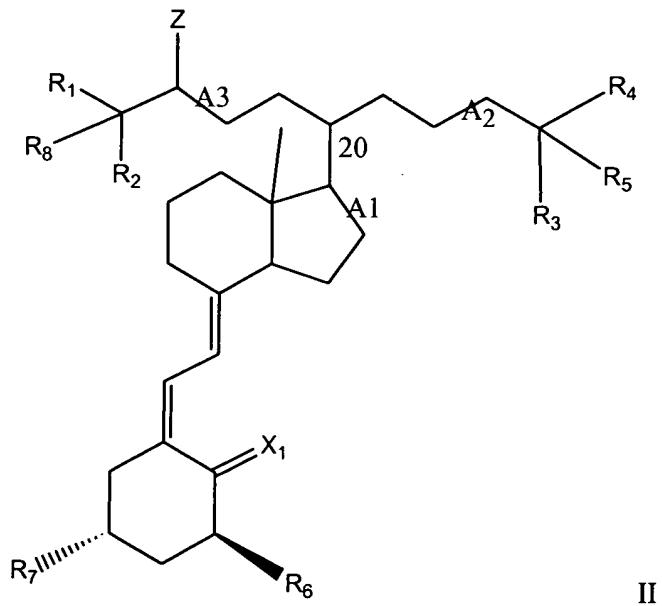
The following listing of claims will replace all previous claims and listings in the application

Claims 1-67 (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject for hypertension, comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a Gemini vitamin D₃ compound, such that said subject is treated for hypertension.

69. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the Gemini vitamin D₃ compound suppresses expression of renin, thereby treating the subject for hypertension.

70. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the Gemini vitamin D₃ compound is a compound having formula II:



wherein:

- A₁ is a single or a double bond;
- A₂ is a single, a double or a triple bond;
- A₃ is a single bond, an E-double bond, a Z-double bond or a triple bond, provided Z is absent when A₃ is a triple bond;

R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each independently C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ deuteroalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyl; or R₁ and R₂ together with C₂₅ form a C₁-C₄ cycloalkyl or cyclohaloalkyl; or R₃ and R₄ together with C₂₅ form a C₁-C₄ cycloalkyl or cyclohaloalkyl;

R₅, R₇ and R₈ are each independently hydroxyl, OC(O)C₁-C₄ alkyl, OC(O)hydroxyalkyl, or OC(O)haloalkyl;

R₆ is hydrogen, hydroxyl, halogen, OC(O)C₁-C₄ alkyl, OC(O)hydroxyalkyl, or OC(O)haloalkyl;

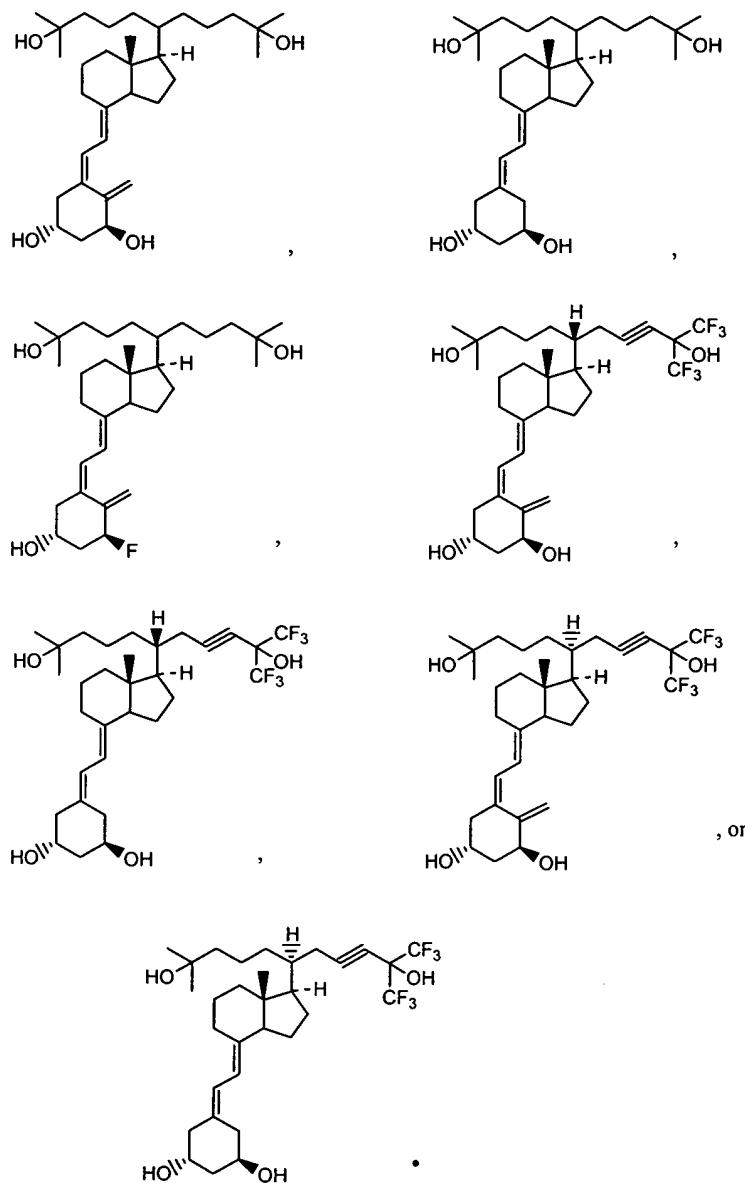
X₁ is H₂ or CH₂;

Z is hydrogen, -OH, =O, -SH, or -NH₂;

and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, salts, and prodrugs thereof.

71. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein said haloalkyl, said cyclohaloalkyl and said halogen are fluoroalkyl, cyclofluoroalkyl and fluorine, respectively.

72. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein the compound of formula II is



73. (Original) The method of claim 70 wherein the compound of formula II is 1, 25-Dihydroxy-21-(2R,3-dihydroxy-3-methyl-butyl)-20R-cholecalciferol, 1, 25-Dihydroxy-21-(2R,3-dihydroxy-3-methyl-butyl)-20S-cholecalciferol, 1, 25-Dihydroxy-21-(2R,3-dihydroxy-3-methyl-butyl)-20S-19-nor-cholecalciferol, 1, 25-Dihydroxy-20S-21-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-butyl)-24-keto-19-nor-cholecalciferol, 1, 25-Dihydroxy-20S-21-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-butyl)-24-keto-cholecalciferol, 1-Dihydroxy-21(3-hydroxy-3-trifluoromethyl-4-trifluoro-butynyl)-26,27-hexadeutero-19-nor-20S-cholecalciferol or 1,25-Dihydroxy-21(3-hydroxy-3-trifluoromethyl-4-trifluoro-butynyl)-26,27-hexadeutero-20S-cholecalciferol.

74. (Original) The method of claim 73 wherein the compound is 1, 25-Dihydroxy-21-(2R,3-dihydroxy-3-methyl-butyl)-20R-cholecalciferol, or 1, 25-Dihydroxy-21- (2R,3-dihydroxy-3-methyl-butyl)-20S-cholecalciferol.

75. (Original) The method of claim 70, further comprising obtaining the Gemini vitamin D₃ compound of formula II.

76. (Original) A method of suppressing renin expression in a subject comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a Gemini vitamin D₃ compound such that renin expression in said subject is suppressed.

77. (Original) The method of claim 76, wherein the Gemini vitamin D₃ compound is the compound of formula II recited in claim 70.

Claims 78 – 100 (Cancelled)

101. (Currently Amended) A packaged formulation comprising a pharmaceutical composition comprising a Gemini vitamin D₃ compound ~~recited in any of claims 1-33 or 70-73~~, and instructions for use in the treatment of a vitamin D₃ associated state.

102. (Currently Amended) The packaged formulation of claim 101, wherein said Gemini vitamin D₃ compound is present in an amount effective to treat a vitamin D₃ associated state.

103. (Currently Amended) The packaged ~~formulation~~formulation of claim 101, wherein said Gemini vitamin D₃ associated state is a disorder ~~recited in any of method claims 35-79~~ compound is the compound of formula II recited in claim 70.